

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-2, 6-16, 46, 49-61, 64-72 and newly submitted claims 73-88 are pending in the application, with claims 1, 46, 61 and 73 being the independent claims. Claims 1, 46 and 61 has been amended to more clearly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the present invention. Claim 73 has been added to set forth other aspects of the invention. Descriptive support for the amendment and newly submitted claims is found in the specification at least on pages 9-13. The amendment introduces no new matter and its entry is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-8, 10-14, 46-49, 55-59, 61-66 and 70-72 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as obvious over GB 164 (Great Britain 1,010,164). Claims 16 and 69 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as obvious over GB 164 or in the alternative as obvious over the same. Claims 15 and 68 are rejected under §103(a) as obvious over GB 164. Claims 9 and 67 are rejected under §103(a) as obvious over GB 164 and Duke (US 3,573,072).

Based on the above amendment and the following Remarks, Applicants respectfully request the reconsideration of the outstanding rejections.

The prior art references, and in particular, GB 164 teaches

In accordance with the present invention there is provided a method of treating a soda-lime glass article with a potassium salt, wherein the glass is contacted with the potassium salt at an interfacial temperature of at least 875°F and the glass is thereafter cooled before strengthening which results from said treatment is dissipated. The time of treatment in this manner need only be 5 to 40 minutes, and is usually 5 to 25 minutes (Column 1, line 37 – Column 2, line 1).

Thirty-six 4 inch by 4 inch by 0.125 inch polished soda-lime-silica glass plates of identical glass composition (Samples 42-77) were preheated for ten minutes to the respective temperature at which the potassium salt bath was maintained and then immersed in a molten potassium nitrate bath for immersion periods noted below. Then the plates were removed and

heated while still in contact with the immersion-provided potassium nitrate films for the heating periods noted (Column 1, lines 5 – 15).

The amended claims clarify that the time of dipping and applying of ions to the surface of the glass article is within the range of about 10 seconds or less, as recited in claims 1, 46 and 61.

This range is about 30% less than the minimum dipping or applying time of 15 seconds contemplated by GB 164. Further, newly submitted claim 73 recites preheating the glass article to a temperature lower than that of the salt bath, whereas GB 164 merely preheats the glass to at least the temperature of the salt bath. As such, GB 164 does not disclose the claimed inventions and additionally even teaches away from them by requiring greater applying times and greater preheating temperatures.

Claims 6-16, 49-60, 64-72 and 74-78 depend from claims 1, 46, 61 and 73 and, while setting forth other novel features, are allowable for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to claims 1, 46, 61 and 73.

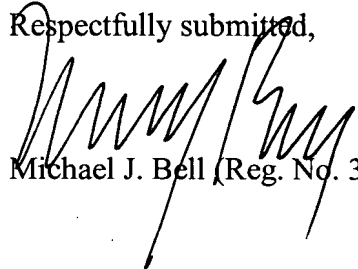
In view of the aforementioned amendments and explanation regarding the rejections under §103, it is requested that the rejections be withdrawn and the claims permitted to issue.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants believe that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael J. Bell', is written over the typed name.

Michael J. Bell (Reg. No. 39,604)

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HOWREY LLP
2941 Fairview Park Drive, Box 7
Falls Church, VA 22042
(703) 663-3600